#11: NEVER FORGET YOUR BIRTHPLACE

SMOKIN' PARADE

スモーキン・パレード

片岡人生／近藤一馬

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NOTES

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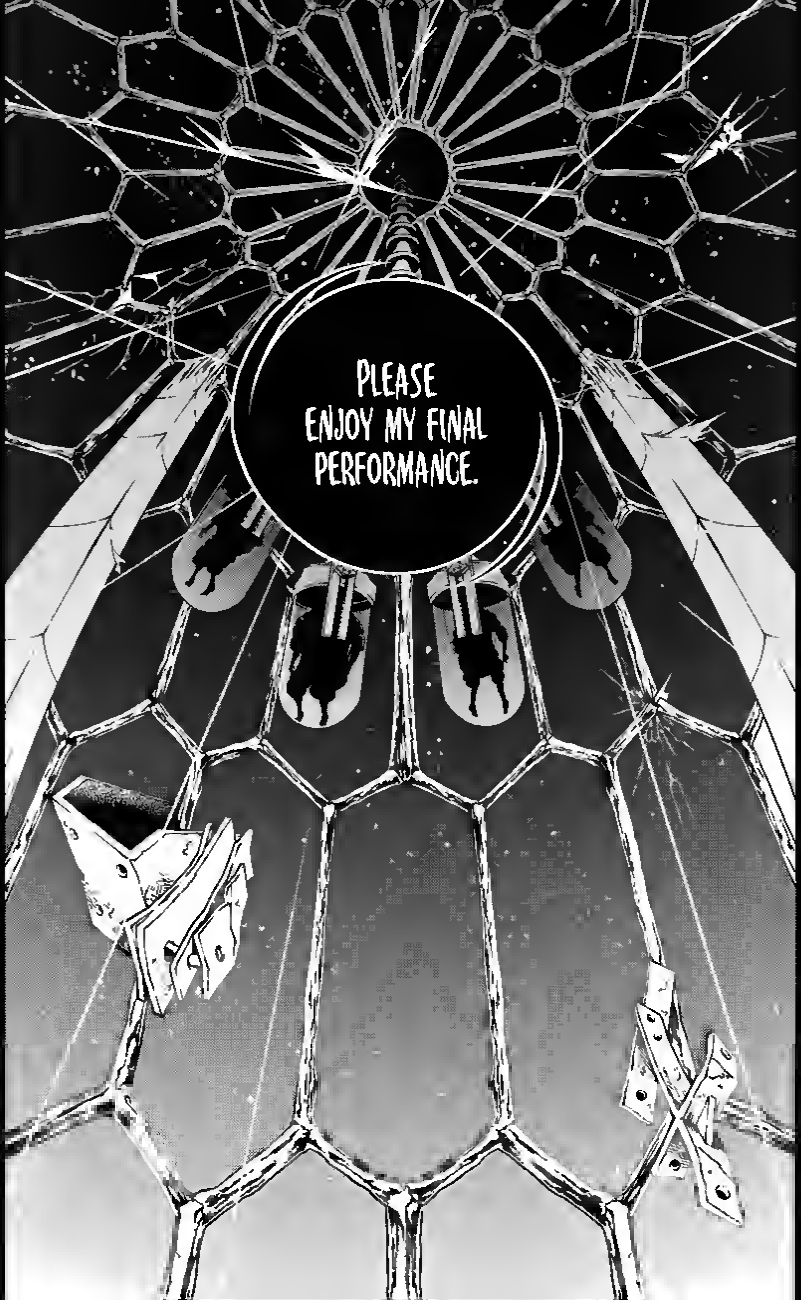
...SO MY WISH WASN'T GRANTED?
HEY YOU, NEW RECRUIT.
HMPH, I'M TELLING YA I HATE BASEMENTS AND DARK PLACES
HMM.
GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!
AND YOUR HAIR'S A BLOODY MESS, TOO!
YOU'VE STILL GOT BLACK DEMON GUTS ON YOUR FEET.

AH!
IT'S...
GONE.
...

WHERE...
WHERE DID IT GO?!
DON'T GO BACK! HEY!
WAIT A SEC!
SHE SPEAKS JUST FINE!
YOU CAN TALK?!
ALRIGHT EVERYONE!


PLEASE
ENJOY MY FINAL
PERFORMANCE.

SHE WAS USING HER OWN "BODY" AS "THREADS"...
Ugh...
TO SUPPORT THE WHOLE ROOM?!
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS? IT'S TOUGH.
SO THAT BEING SICKAGGRA WAS A LIE TOO...

FROM NEAR AND AFAR~ ALL OF YOU IN THIS LIVELY GATHERING,
KINDLY ACCOMPANY ME TO THE UNDER-WORLD.
FOOF!

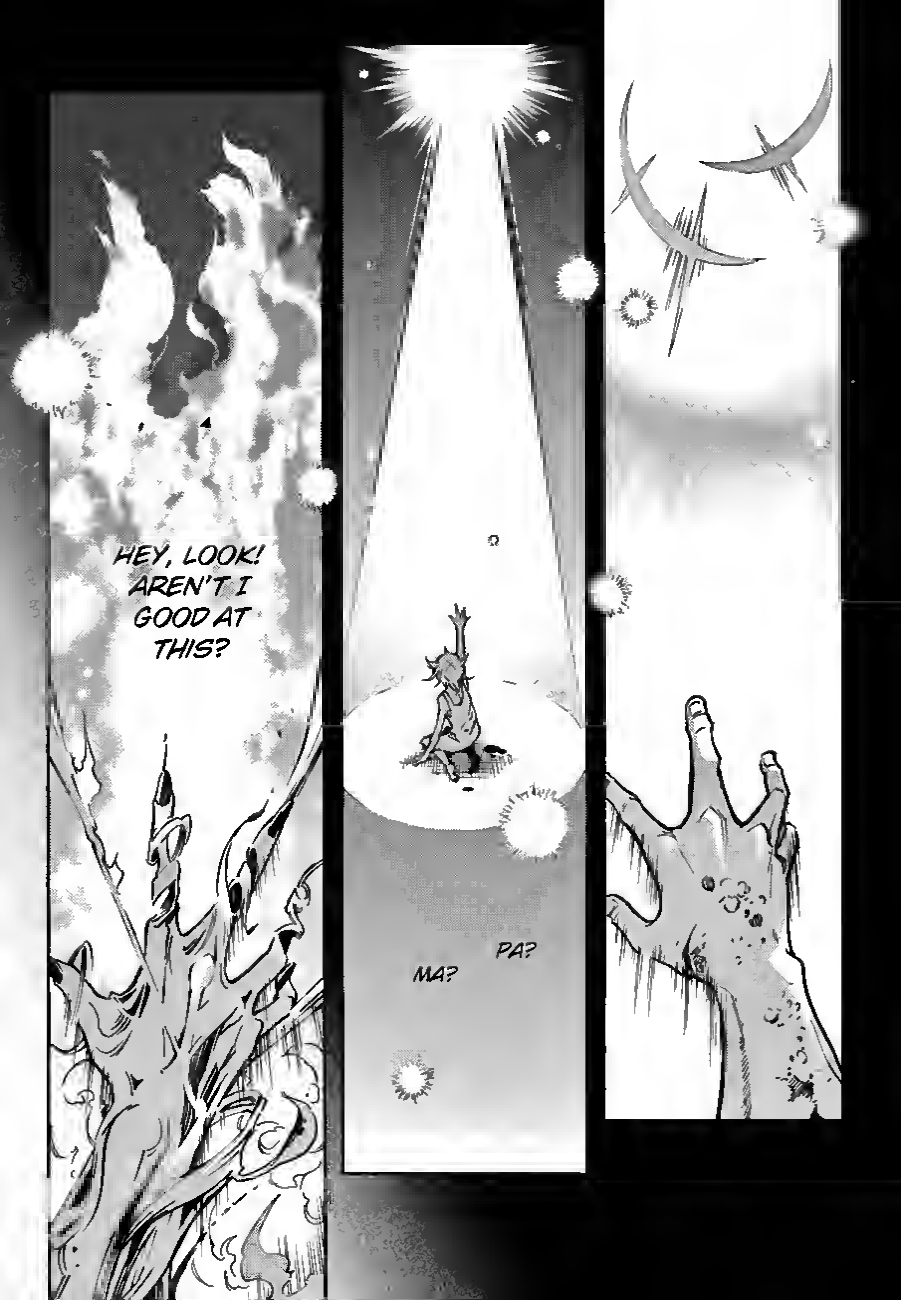
INESCAPABLE TOUGH THREADS, A SOLID DOOR, AND ROARING CHEMICAL FLAMES.
THEY ARE ALL PART OF THE SHOW'S SERVICE
Gah...!
Hii...
!
THIS IS MY FINAL PERFORMANCE!
...
THANKS, FURY.

WITH THIS, WE CAN GREATLY REDUCE THE BLACK DEMONS' NUMBERS AS PLANNED
MY BEAUTIFUL,
REAL FAMILY.
HyaH AhaHA!
YES! YOU'RE ALL BEAUTIFUL-
EVERY-ONE IS
RED AND BRIGHT...
CRAP!
JUST HOW MANY OF THESE THREADS ARE THERE?
AH!!!

...THAT THING AS FAMILY? THAT DEMON GIRL?
THERE'S GONNA BE A FINE IF THEY FIND OUT THERE'S A SECOND KID, I TELL YA.
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE KIND OF ILLNESS THAT INSURANCE WOULDN'T COVER.

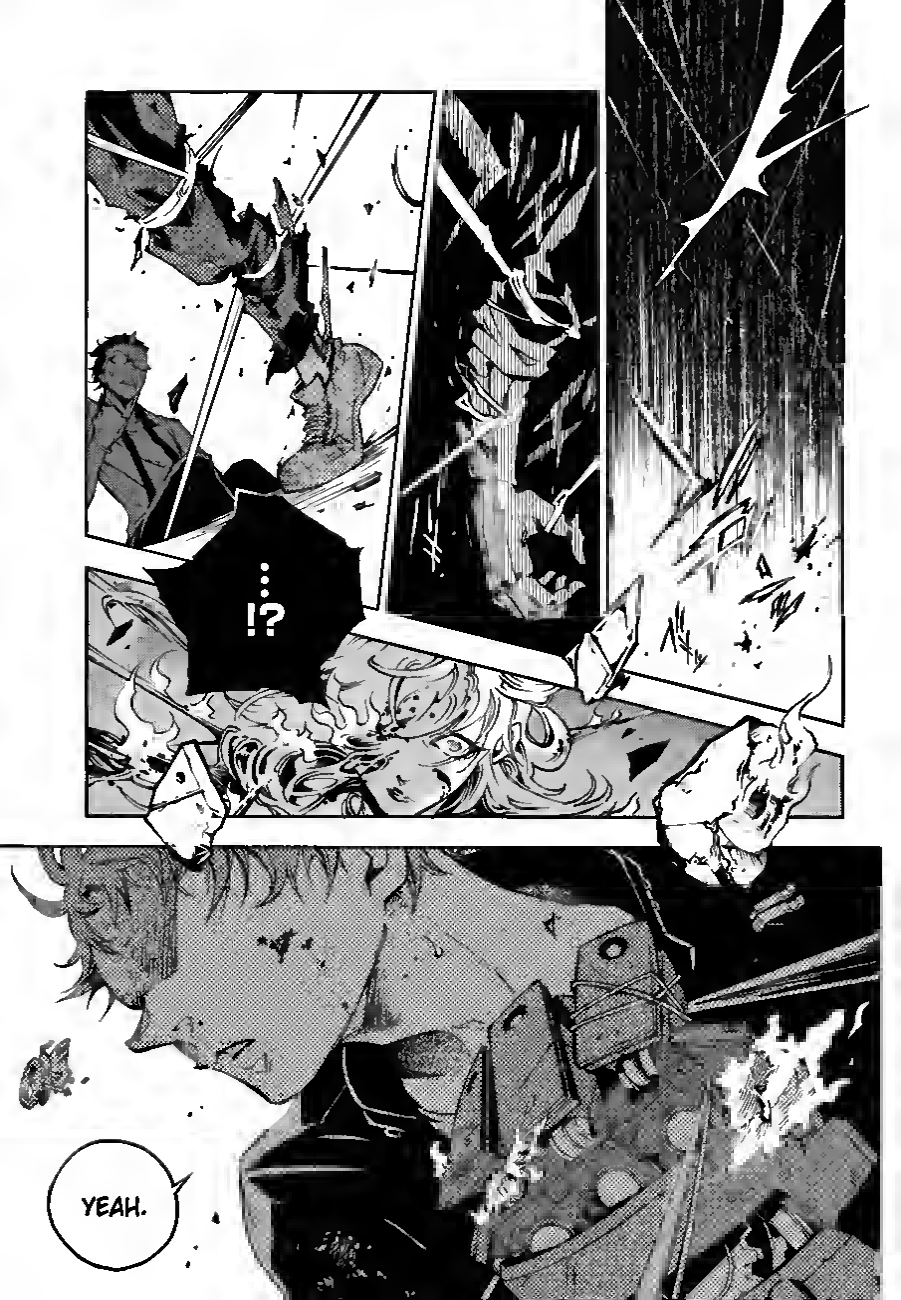
AND JUST SAY, "THE OTHER ONE WASN'T ACTUALLY BORN."
WE CAN FOOL THOSE IDIOTS AT CITY HALL
"IT WAS A LIE."
"THERE WAS A MISTAKE ON THE FORM."

FOR A BODY THAT DOESN'T SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE IF IT'S IN THIS WORLD OR THE NEXT.
WE CAN THROW THAT THING BEHIND THE STY.
SO BEAUTIFUL ...
AH.


HEY, LOOK! AREN'T I GOOD AT THIS?
MA?
PA?

WASN'T I GOOD AT ACTING...
BEAUTIFUL AND HAPPY?
CLAP
CLAP

CLAP
CLAP

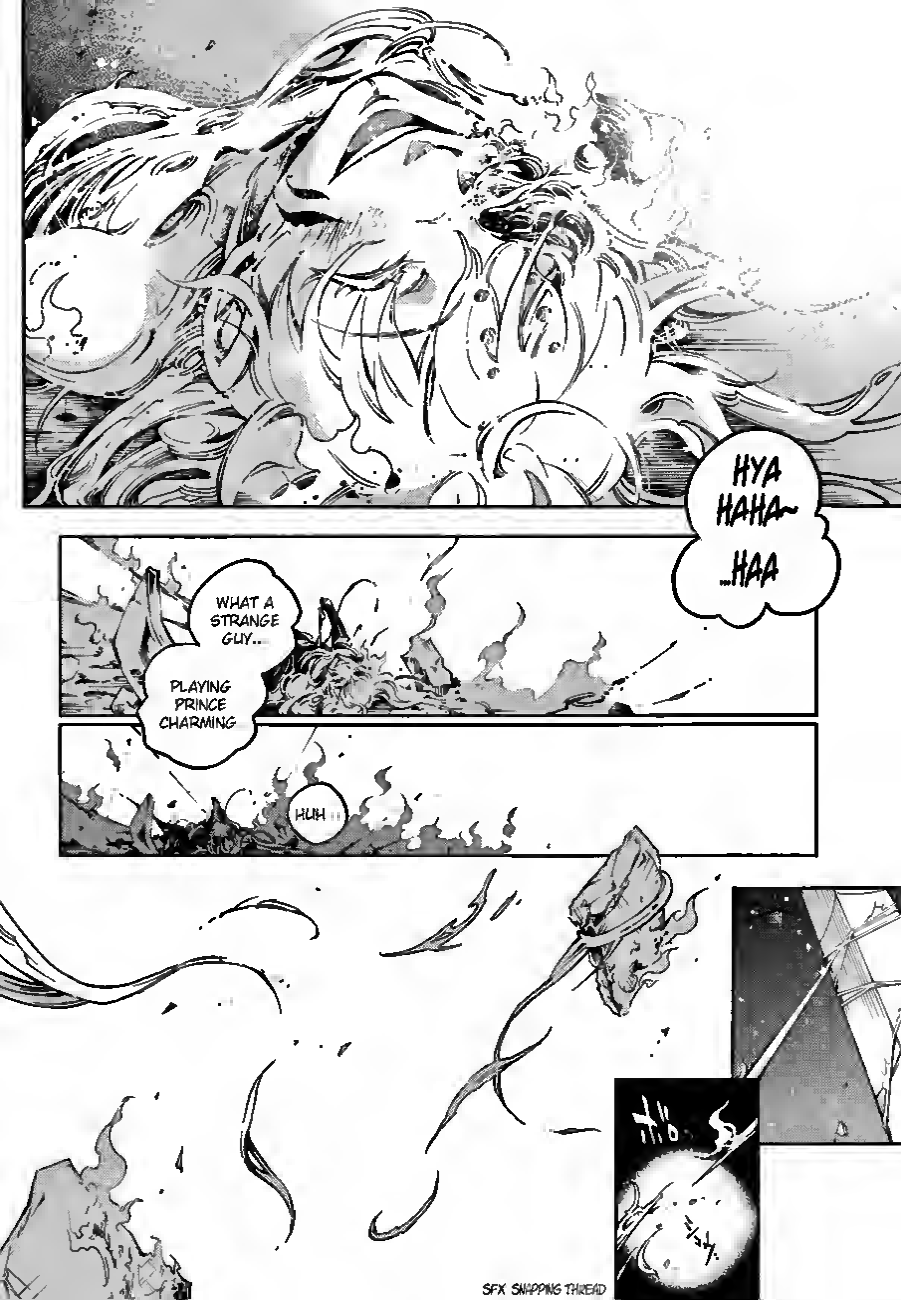

!?
YEAH.

GRAND AND BEAUTIFUL, MISS.
IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I DON'T WANNA LOSE, NO MATTER WHAT.
SOMEHOW,

SFX:BANG!
NO...
HE RIPPED APART THE THREADS WITH HIS PROSTHETICS ...
WITH HIS REAL BODY TOO?!
ARE YOU CRAZY, YOUKOU?
WAIT, I'M COMING-
OPEN...!

CRASH!
...CAN'T BREATHE
...
TAP
HEY,
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE OUT!
IT'S GONNA COLLAPSE!
THE THREADS ARE STILL—
!!
HE ACTUALLY BROKE IT?!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, MISS.
KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE NO. 1:
"BE KIND TO OTHERS."


HYA HAHA~ ...HAA
WHAT A STRANGE GUY...
PLAYING PRINCE CHARMING
HUH
SFX SWIPPING THREAD

SFX FALLING DEBRIS
HOLY SH—
ESCAPE? IT'S HOPE—

HUH?

YOUKOU!
Ug-
AKITA-NII! COME ON, YOUR WOUNDS HAVEN'T HEALED YET—
SHUDDUP!
DAMMIT!!

SFX SWAP

"CRUSHING THUNDER WAVE"
ARMLESS GEAR

IT'S NOT STYLIN' TO RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN.
SFX PANTING
You bastard!
I'M AT THAT AGE WHERE YOU'D WORRY ABOUT SMELLING LIKE AN OLD MAN AFTER BREAKING A SWEAT.
CONTINUED IN FEB ISSUE